

What is Claimed is:

1. A hardcopy device comprising a printhead, a spittoon arranged to receive ink from said printhead, and a heater arranged to heat ink received in said spittoon.
2. A hardcopy device according to claim 1, wherein said spittoon is movably mounted on said hardcopy device.
3. A hardcopy device according to claim 2, wherein said spittoon is mounted on a rotatable drum.
4. A hardcopy device according to claim 3, wherein said printhead is fixedly mounted on said hardcopy device adjacent to said drum, and wherein a print media carrier is provided on said drum.
5. A hardcopy device according to claim 4 and further comprising a scraper adjacent to said drum, said scraper being spaced from said printhead circumferentially around said drum.
6. A hardcopy device according to claim 5, wherein said scraper is arranged to be moved radially relative to the circumferential surface of said drum.
7. A hardcopy device according to claim 6 wherein said scraper extends along substantially the entire width of said drum and is arranged to be moved in a reciprocating manner in a direction parallel to the circumferential surface of said drum.
8. A hardcopy device according to claim 3, wherein said printhead is movably mounted on said hardcopy device and wherein said hardcopy device includes a print media path, wherein said printhead is moveable between a first, printing, disposition in which it is positioned adjacent to said print media path and a second, servicing disposition, in which it is positioned adjacent said drum.

9. A hardcopy device according to claim 1, wherein said heater comprises an electrical resistance element.
10. A hardcopy device according to claim 1 and further comprising a controller, said controller controlling said printhead to eject ink into said spittoon and controlling the switching on of said heater.
11. A hardcopy device comprising means defining a print media path, printing means arranged to fire ink at a print media as it moves along said path, spittoon means for receiving waste ink from said printing means, means for producing relative movement between said printing means and said spittoon means, and means for heating ink received in said spittoon means.
12. A service station module for a hardcopy device, said component comprising a spittoon and a heater for said spittoon.
13. A module according to claim 12, wherein said heater comprises an electrical heating element.
14. A method of operating a hardcopy device having a printhead and a spittoon for receiving ink from said printhead, comprising the steps of: producing relative movement of said printhead and said spittoon to bring them into a mutually adjacent position; firing ink from said printhead into said spittoon; and heating said ink.
15. A method according to claim 14 comprising the further steps of: providing relative movement of said printhead and said spittoon to bring them into non-adjacent positions; and removing the contents of said spittoon.
16. A computer program comprising program code for performing the method steps of either of claim 14 when said program is run on a processing device associated with a suitable hardcopy device.

17. A hardcopy device comprising a rotatable drum, an elongated spittoon region extending across substantially the entire width of the circumferential surface of said drum, and a removal device for removing the contents of said spittoon region, said removal device being movable radially relative to said drum.
18. A hardcopy device according to claim 17, wherein said removal device is movable parallel to the circumferential surface of said drum.
19. A hardcopy device according to claim 18, wherein said removal device is movable in reciprocating manner parallel to the circumferential surface of said drum.
20. A hardcopy device according to claim 17, wherein said removal device extends substantially across the entire width of the circumferential surface of said drum.
21. A hardcopy device according to claim 17, wherein said removal device includes a scraper blade.
22. A method of operating a hardcopy device having a printhead and a drum platen mounted to rotate relative to said printhead, said drum platen having an elongate spittoon region for receiving ink from said printhead, said spittoon region extending across substantially the entire width of the circumferential surface of said drum platen, the method comprising the steps of firing ink from said printhead into said spittoon, rotating said drum platen to move said spittoon region adjacent to a removal device for removing the contents of said spittoon region, and moving said removal device radially relative to said drum platen.